

## Islamic meet opens in Libya

TRIPOLI, May 16 (R). — Col. Muammar Qadhafi today opens the eighth Islamic foreign ministers' conference here which will include discussion of Palestine and the problems of Moslem minorities throughout the world, the Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) reported. Foreign ministers of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Uganda, Gabon, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Chad and Guinea have so far arrived for the week-long conference according to ARNA, official news agency of the Libyan Jamahiriya (formerly Libya). ARNA said they are joined by representatives of the Arab League, the Filipino Moslem Moro Liberation Front, the Turkish Cypriot Community, the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, and Islamic institutions.

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## Israeli forces impose curfew on Nablus, make arrests in West Bank

TEL AVIV, May 16 (Agencies) — Israeli security forces made many arrests yesterday in Nablus, occupied West Bank, and a curfew was imposed late in the night after violent demonstrations there, the daily Maariv reported today.

Earlier in the day, High school students in the town built barricades of burning tyres in the main square and stoned passing Israeli vehicles in protest against the 29th anniversary of Israel's statehood, eyewitnesses said.

They said extra security measures had been taken throughout the West Bank area as high school students demonstrated and merchants joined in a scheduled day-long strike.

Although Israel followed the Hebrew calendar and observed the anniversary of statehood on April 21, the general calendar marks the day on May 15. In Ramallah, north of occupied Jerusalem, security forces used tear gas to disperse small groups of students from a local girls teachers training seminary who built road blocks of burning tyres across the main Jerusalem-to-Ramallah road. Two demonstrators were detained. No-one was hurt, police said.

A pipe bomb exploded near a military post at a crossroads

in the Nablus area, but caused no casualties or damage.

In the Gaza Strip, the only signs of anti-Israeli activity were graffiti on the walls of a few houses.

Maariv said Israeli forces were on the alert today for signs of fresh disturbances.

In Tel Aviv, it has been announced that Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the extremist Jewish Defence League, and nine followers were detained by security forces today when they tried to lay the foundation stone of an illegal Israeli settlement outside Nablus.

They were taken from the top of the small Samaritan sect on the outskirts of the town, to the police station at Afula, in Israel, for questioning.

Police said local Arab residents were preparing to hold memorial services for 16-year-old Lina Nabulsi killed a year ago when Israeli soldiers fired on demonstrators.

The military governor of Nablus read to Rabbi Kahane an order issued a month ago forbidding him from entering the West Bank.

Two of his followers tried to run away but were seized and taken to Afula with the others.

Rabbi Kahane was prevented from entering the West Bank

two weeks ago when he and about 30 followers tried to visit Nablus to establish an Israeli settlement outside the town.

Rabbi Kahane is heading his own list of candidates in the elections for the Knesset (parliament) tomorrow. His programme calls for the incorporation of all the Biblical land of Palestine into the Jewish state, with payment to Arabs prepared to move away from Palestine. He also wants stricter observance of Jewish religious law.

## Sharif Sharaf returns from Saudi Arabia

AMMAN, May 16 (R). — Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Cabinet, returned here today from a short visit to Saudi Arabia.

Sharif Sharaf told reporters he had a very useful meeting with King Khalid, to whom he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein on his recent visit to the United States.

The Saudi monarch had shown complete understanding of concerted Arab action and confirmed the close relations between the two countries.

Sharif Sharaf said there would be further contacts between the two countries on the return of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd from a scheduled visit to the United States.

Sharif Sharaf delivered a similar message from King Hussein to Egypt's President Anwar Sadat on Sunday.

## Zairese war nears its end

KINSHASA, May 16 (AFP). — The end of the rebel invasion of Zaire's Shaba province is now only five or six weeks off, observers said here today.

They were commenting on their return from Kasaji, a town about 120 kms from the Angolan border which was recaptured from the Katangan rebels by loyalist troops last week.

Zairese armed forces Commander-in-Chief Col. Eluki said that the presence of pro-government troops in Kasaji proved the two-month war in the copper-rich province was "virtually over".

When President Mobutu Sese Seko visited Kasaji yesterday the only inhabitants were 26 lepers who had been unable to flee into the bush.

The town, retaken by joint Moroccan-Zairese troops without a fight, appeared to have suffered little damage except to the railway station and a few villas which bore bullet marks.

Zairese troops, some armed with bows and arrows, others carrying M16 or Fall assault rifles were yesterday beating the bush near the town to flush out villagers who had sought refuge there.

Rebels now appear to have fallen back towards Dilolo and the Angolan border having abandoned Sandoa and Kapanga to pro-government forces.

About 100 pro-government troops, including ten or so Moroccans, were being treated for wounds yesterday in Kolwezi hospital.

An informed source said that five Moroccan soldiers had been killed up to now.



OCCUPATION SOLDIERS — Two Israeli soldiers armed with U.S.-made M16 rifles guard an intersection in occupied Jerusalem Sunday as security was increased in the Holy City to prevent possible commando attacks in remembrance of May 15 (the date of the creation of Israel). (AP wirephoto).

## Khaddam says in Doha

## Arab diplomatic moves should be coupled with military preparations

ABU DHABI, May 16 (R). — Syria's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam said today that diplomatic efforts to solve the Middle East crisis should be coupled with Arab military preparations.

"The Arabs have other alternatives to adopt if diplomatic efforts fail," he told reporters on arrival here from Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria hoped the Geneva Middle East peace conference would reconvene shortly and would prefer a unified Arab delegation at the meeting, provided all Arab parties received separate invitations.

Asked if he believed the United States was serious in its

efforts to bring about a peace settlement, Mr. Khaddam said that would be known in the light of the current Arab contacts with American officials.

President Carter has already had talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Assad. He will be meeting Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz in Washington early next week.

Mr. Khaddam is carrying a message from President Assad to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President, Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan on the outcome of his talks in Geneva eight days ago with President Carter.

He has already visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain for the same purpose.

## Kaunda places Zambia "in state of war" with neighbouring Rhodesia

LUSAKA, May 16 (R). — President Kenneth Kaunda today said he had placed Zambia in "a state of war" with neighbouring Rhodesia.

He told a news conference he had put his army on full alert and had issued orders that any Rhodesian aircraft should be shot on sight.

The president said that, last Thursday, he received a mes-

sage from the British Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen warning Zambia that Rhodesian forces would attack nationalist guerrilla bases there.

President Kaunda said: "For the first time ever since the Rhodesian crisis began in 1965 Ian Smith had used his messengers as the post office box to pass on a message to us that he was going to attack."

## General strike covers four Basque provinces

BILBAO, Spain, May 16 (R). — Riot police used smoke bombs and rubber bullets to break up demonstrations in Spain's northern Basque country today during a general strike which virtually paralysed the region.

The strike was to protest against the death of four people in demonstrations in the last four days demanding release of Basque political prisoners.

The Interior Ministry, worried that the violence could spread to the climate for general elections on June 15, accused extremists of creating a "wave of subversion and violence."

In its first official statement on the latest Basque troubles, it said the government was considering freeing more political prisoners. But it would not enforce efforts to sabotage the elections.

The government says only 27 Basques are still in jail following an amnesty for 286 political prisoners in March.

In the industrial port of Bilbao today demonstrators barricaded streets with parked cars then fled in a hail of police rubber bullets.

Labour sources said the number of workers on strike could reach half a million in the four Basque provinces of Guipuzcoa, Vizcaya, Alava and Navarre.

The communist-led Workers' commissions did not join in, apparently reluctant to antagonise the government which legalised the Communist Party last month despite military opposition.

## PCC sets up 6 permanent committees

DAMASCUS, May 16 (AFP). — The Palestinian Central Council (PCC) of the Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday set up six permanent committees to deal with separate elements of the Palestine question, the PLO's official newspaper Wafa reported.

The 55-man PLO Central Council held Saturday held discussions to formulate an action programme in the wake of the Palestine National Council meeting in Cairo, in March.

Wafa reported that the committees will be responsible for foreign affairs, affairs of the "occupied homeland" military

affairs and security, social affairs and labour, information and culture, and financial affairs.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat has been given the responsibility for "leading the members of the PLO."

The hard-line Rejection Front, opposed to any negotiated Middle East settlement and no longer on either the Central Council or the PLO Executive, did not attend the meetings.

The National Council had generally examined the Middle East situation taking into account current diplomatic moves, reports said.

## Gunbattles break out in Pakistani town

ISLAMABAD, May 16 (R). — Gunbattles broke out today between Hur tribesmen protesting over the detention of their spiritual and political leader Pir Pagaro and police in the desert town of Sanghar in southern Pakistan, reliable sources said. At least five people were wounded in the clashes which flared when the armed tribesmen blocked all roads into Sanghar. Pir Pagaro's home town some 320 kms north of Karachi, the sources said. Observers thought a confrontation with the Hur tribesmen, who rebelled against British colonial rule during the Second World War, could be potentially serious for the government.

## Israeli polls show Labour, Likud running almost neck and neck

TEL AVIV, May 16 (R). — Israelis vote tomorrow in what is widely expected to be the closest election in the country's history.

The most recent public opinion polls show that the ruling Labour Party is running neck and neck with the rightwing Likud opposition group, only slightly ahead.

The outcome could therefore hinge on the ballots of Israeli soldiers serving in isolated outposts in occupied territory from the Sinai desert to the ridges of the Golan Heights.

The results of the possibly decisive military vote may only be known late on Wednesday.

A total of 2.2 million Israelis are eligible to vote. In line with Israeli tradition, tomorrow has been declared a public holiday and the polls will be open for 16 hours.

The opinion polls predict that the two major parties will win 38 or 39 seats each in the 120-member Knesset. In each case, this is far short of the majority needed to form a new government.

Both Labour and Likud would apparently be forced in case of victory to appeal to smaller parties to aid them in making up a coalition government — a process which, in one past instance, took up to four months.

The two obvious parties to be called on in such an event appear to be the newly-founded centrist Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and the National Religious Party.

DMC leader Prof. Yigael Yadin has made clear that his group would be ready to aid either of the major parties "if DMC conditions were met."

These conditions deal mainly with domestic or constitutional issues of no immediate urgency, and compromises could probably be reached between the DMC and either Labour or Likud.

But the National Religious Party's unwavering line against any withdrawal from the occupied West Bank could rule it out as a partner for Labour and result in Labour giving up power for the first time since Israel's creation in 1948.

Many of the younger voters say they will cast their ballots for Likud, not because of its nationalist policies but because it could overthrow the Israeli "establishment."

For many Israelis, foreign affairs, according to one poll, came only third as a principal issue — after inflation and the social gaps separating Israelis of different origins.

The top two contenders for the premiership in the general election confronted each other last night in a U.S.-style television debate — and many observers pronounced it a draw.

Acting Prime Minister and Defence Minister Shimon Peres, who heads the Labour party for the first time, and Mr. Menachem Begin, veteran leader of Likud dueled for 40 minutes in a friendly, leisurely fashion.

But there were no surprises in the nation's first ever television debate with both leaders espousing well-known party positions in lengthy replies to questions put by the moderator.

Two of the four questions concerned foreign policy, with Mr. Peres attempting to prove that his party was not as dovish as the opposition maintained on the issue of Middle East peace, while Mr. Begin sought to impress that his group was not as hawkish as portrayed.

Mr. Peres reiterated that his government will not return to the 1967 borders even within a final peace agreement with the Arabs and that it would oppose U.S. policy whenever necessary.

Mr. Begin charged that Labour, which has dominated all Israeli governments since 1948, advocated policies that had only resulted in concessions by Israel and had not brought a Middle East peace any closer.

A Likud-led government would pursue "a genuine peace from a position of strength which would be flexible when necessary," he said.

However, Mr. Peres said earlier yesterday he would be ready to suggest a territorial compromise in the interests of Middle East peace if he won the general election.

"I shall recommend to the coming cabinet that we shall go to Washington with ideas and suggestions of our own," he said in a television interview shown in London.

"We are for peace and in order to achieve peace we're ready to suggest a territorial compromise," he said. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Peres' comments followed President Carter's recent statement that he could see no reasonable hope for a Middle East settlement without a homeland for the Palestinians.

The Carter administration is making a major effort to bring Arabs and Israelis back to the peace conference in Geneva.

"When it comes to the Palestinians we are certainly ready seriously to discuss their wishes and their problems either with West Bankers and the Gazans or with the Jordanians and them combined," said Mr. Peres.

"What we object to is the PLO," he declared.

## Mondale starts talks on aid to Portugal

LISBON, May 16 (R). — U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale today undertakes the first official engagements of his European tour, meeting Portuguese leaders to discuss financial aid for Portugal's sorely-pressed economy.

The vice president, on the first leg of a 10-day five-nation European tour, has meetings with both Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes and Prime Minister Mario Soares.

Mr. Mondale yesterday told reporters travelling with him that one aspect of his visit was to express U.S. admiration of Portugal's movement towards democratic rule since the 1974 revolution which ended nearly half a century of rightwing dictatorship.

"No nation has more dramatically moved towards democracy and justice than the country we are now in," he commented.

But he said that Portugal's economic problems would probably be the main subject of his talks today, Portugal, which

is suffering from a 25-30 per cent inflation rate and has about 17 per cent unemployment, is seeking international economic aid.

The United States is the prime mover behind a proposed World Bank loan package currently being discussed to help Portugal. America will contribute about \$300 million of the expected \$700 to \$800 million the package will total.

"That loan is crucial to the Portuguese government to revitalise their economy," Mr. Mondale said yesterday.

The vice president said that among other topics he expected to discuss was the modernisation of Portugal's armed forces to play a more meaningful role in NATO. "Relations are very, very good," he stressed.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Soares told reporters after returning from a European free trade association summit in Vienna that U.S. use of Lajes air base in the Azores would also probably come up in the talks.

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## Giscard tells Nimeiri France shares Sudan's concern over Red Sea

PARIS, May 16 (R). — Sudanese President Jaafar Mohamed Nimeiri arrived here today on an official visit and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing immediately told him France shared his country's concern over the Red Sea region.

Gen. Nimeiri's talks with the French government were expected to stress stronger Western support for Sudan at a time when political changes are under way in the Horn of Africa.

Greeting Gen. Nimeiri President Giscard d'Estaing said: "Our talks will show that we have the same concerns over the Middle East, east Africa and the Red Sea."

In his reply, President Nimeiri said: "I pay homage to France for its position regarding the just Arab cause for peace in the Middle East."

During his three-day visit, Gen. Nimeiri was expected to seek French help to obtain sophisticated military equipment to offset what he considers the military strength of the Libyan Jamahiriya (formerly Libya) and Soviet influence in Ethiopia.

President Nimeiri views the question of France's future role in the Horn of Africa as being of major importance now that the tiny French Territory of the Afars and Issas (Djibouti) is to gain independence next month.

## Lebanese rightists claim killing 27 Syrian soldiers

BEIRUT, May 16 (R). — Twenty-seven Syrian soldiers were killed in two days of bitter weekend fighting with rightwing Lebanese militiamen in northern Lebanon, informed rightwing sources said here today.

Killing losses were put at one killed and nine wounded. The sources said the rightists had knocked out four Syrian armoured personnel carriers in the fighting, which had involved mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

The fighting centred on the mountain village of Billa, about 20 kms south-east of the northern port of Tripoli, and observers here said it underlined continuing friction between Syria and parts of the Lebanese right.

The sources disputed an account of the clashes given by the force which said yesterday that fighting had broken out

after two members of the peace force had been killed in an ambush set up by cigarette smugglers.

Asked to comment on the death toll given today by the sources, a spokesman for the peace force said he had no information on the total number of casualties.

The sources said that rightwing militiamen using rocket-propelled grenades had knocked out a Syrian armoured personnel carrier when it tried to enter Billa on Saturday.

Syrian reinforcements sent to the village had come under heavy fire from militiamen of Mr. Camille Chamoun's National Liberal Party (NLP) and the Phalange, Lebanon's biggest rightwing organisation, the sources said.

They added that the Syrians had mortared Billa and its surroundings. Calm had now returned to the area.

## European NATO states welcome Carter's plans to place more arms orders in Europe

BRUSSELS, May 16 (R). — Defence ministers of 11 European NATO countries today warmly welcomed President Carter's pledge that the United States will place more arms orders in Europe, but several ministers were reported to be sceptical.

Danish Defence Minister Ole Moeller, who presided over the "Eurogroup" session, told reporters: "We welcomed with great satisfaction that the American president stressed the importance of equipment cooperation among the allies."

President Carter said at the recent London NATO summit that he was seeking a greater

balance in arms sales across the Atlantic. At present the Europeans buy about 10 times as much from the Americans as the U.S. buys from Europe.

Informed sources said however that several ministers expressed reservations about the likelihood of the U.S. ever translating its ambitions into reality.

They said that congressional and industrial pressures were likely to restrict the ability of the Carter administration in realising its plans.

The ministers from all NATO's European member states except France and Iceland, agreed at the one-day session to

improve contributions made by the European nations to the alliance.

This follows President Carter's call for a greater effort by member states.

A senior NATO official has said that President Carter would be disappointed if the European allies did not increase their defence spending by a minimum three per cent in real terms.

The ministers tomorrow meet U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown, who will spell out in greater detail what Mr. Carter wants from the alliance and its European members.



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## Splitting hairs

They are now splitting very fine hairs in Israel. Mr. Shimon Peres, who only recently stepped into the shoes of Prime Minister Rabin, is going through political gymnastics as he squirms under the gaze of a public that is evaluating him on his resilience to American pressure.

First we were told that the acting prime minister was in deep trouble because Washington failed to include Israel in the list of top countries that qualify to receive the most sophisticated arms in the U.S. arsenal, an honour reserved for direct allies of the United States. Now, whereas the omission of Israel from the list can be regarded as a form of pressure from Washington on Israel to adopt a more reasonable stance on the question of Middle East peace, there was no doubt that whether Israel was on the list or not it would continue to receive an adequate share of sophisticated arms. The U.S. administration's peace initiative in the Middle East did not hinge on that omission.

Yet the opposition Likud Party was all set to raise Cain in the Knesset, when Lo and behold, Mr. Peres was rescued in the nick of time by Israel's firm friends on Capitol Hill -- a pale victory, seeing as Mr. Carter's reaffirmation of Israel's special relationship with the United States and his statement that Israel would continue to receive special consideration in the supply of arms was a cheap concession to extract and was a verbal victory that erased an omission on paper -- but it did not win Israel the right to co-produce the F-16 fighter plane and other grandiose schemes it had in mind.

Mr. Peres had only begun to celebrate when the whole question rebounded on him. It seems the Israelis were not too pleased at the fact that this victory -- hollow or not -- was not the working of Mr. Peres himself but of Israel's friends in Congress.

Well, the shamefaced Mr. Peres decided that if a verbal victory was not good enough for the Israelis, he was going to do his opponents one better -- so he produced a paper victory. On the eve of the elections, he went to the Knesset with the news that for the first time ever, an American president had put down his commitment to supply Israel with arms and modern technology in a letter to Congress -- a commitment that had always existed, yet presumably this will make the arms more substantial when they are unloaded in Israel.

Well, it can be argued that a mention on paper cancels out an omission on paper and that a paper victory cancels out a paper defeat. But in this the Israelis are barking up the wrong tree.

What matters is President Carter's commitment to peace in the Middle East; there is no indication that the Israelis have shaken that. In response to this challenge, Mr. Peres told the electorate in a more serious moment that if elected he would go to the United States with an Israeli peace plan in his satchel.

This was apparently in response to the advice of Mr. Shlomo Avineri, the Director General of the Foreign Ministry, to beat the Americans to the punch by coming up with a map for a settlement before Washington presented Israel with one.

In doing this, Mr. Peres is being true to Israeli tradition: if you feel that the U.S. is applying pressure on you to be reasonable, try to convince the United States to apply pressure on the Arabs to accept your unreasonable terms, for no doubt that is what the peace map will amount to... and that is where Mr. Carter's stand will be crucial. So far, he has given us good reason to believe that he is not short on foresight.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Y editorially wonders whether President Carter will undertake a political adventure or commit himself to a position in which he asserts the United States in the Middle East.

The paper says that Mr. Carter is influenced by three elements: He is still new in his office; he has not forgotten his promises to Israel during his election campaign; and the interests of the United States require a real representative in the Middle East.

Observers say that the United States has occupied itself in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the prevention of war. This policy changed with former President Ford, and Mr. Carter seems to be carrying on with it in forging forward towards peace, the paper says.

But still, Mr. Carter knows better than anyone else the great strength of the Zionists in the United States, the paper continues.

The paper concludes that there are many indications that

Mr. Carter has chosen to be the real representative of American interests.

Under the headline "World Efforts are not the Final End", AL SHA'B says international efforts, especially American efforts, seem to be really directed towards finding a settlement in the Middle East. These international efforts face the possibility of success or failure.

The only alternative to failure is the preparation the Arabs can make to face every new development in the situation in the area," the paper says.

In the face of the Israeli insistence not to approach peace, the Arab "alternative must be ready, and it cannot be formulated without real Arab solidarity. The Arab states, especially the rich Arab states, are called on to extend the utmost help they can provide to the confrontation states," the paper says.

"This help is needed so as to give room for moves towards peace by diplomatic means in all fields and by military means all the time," the paper concludes.

Djibouti, France's last African colony has voted overwhelmingly for independence.

From June 27 the territory will be known as the Republic of Djibouti. From that date its 230,000 people, who are divided equally between two main racial groups -- the Somali-related Issas and the Afars -- will face life alone, although a token French force will remain for training purposes.

The main issues that will concern the new government will be the republic's relations with its two neighbours, Somalia and Ethiopia. It is likely to favour Somalia, but it will have to reach an accord with Ethiopia, because 75 per cent of that country's foreign trade is carried on the railway from the port of Djibouti to Addis Ababa.

With the reaching of this milestone in the story of the dismantling of the French Empire, the news spotlight now turns on the South Pacific, where France has numerous island possessions.

From the Tuamotus to New Caledonia the call for self-rule or full independence grows ever louder.

## Demand for self-rule grows louder in French colonies...

By David Robie

AUCKLAND (Geminil). — The political pot is boiling briskly in France's far-flung South Pacific possessions.

From the Tuamotus to New Caledonia the French Secretariat for Overseas Territories and Departments is having a hard time, as the call for self-rule, or full independence, grows louder.

Mr. Francis Sanford, long a thorn in France's side over nuclear testing in the Pacific, is among the leading challengers of Paris. He has staked his political future on winning a new Pacific deal from the French colonial lawmakers -- and won a moral victory.

Deputy Sanford, head of the Reformateur group seeking home rule for Tahiti, resigned last year from his seat -- the only one representing French Polynesia -- in the National Assembly in Paris.

His aim was twofold: To force a new election for the 30-seat Territorial Assembly in the Tahitian capital of Papeete in the hope of dislodging the dihard Gaullist majority, and to be re-elected as deputy with an overwhelming mandate.

Mr. Sanford, a 65-year-old educationist and the mayor of Faaa (near Papeete), had first been elected to the French Polynesia seat in 1967 and had already been voted back twice with an increased majority each time.

This time he fell short of his target of 70 per cent, but still coasted in with 55.37 per cent of the votes after his big gamble.

He and his fellow autonomists are fed up with being dangled at the end of France's colonial apron strings. They are in a slender 16-14 minority in the territorial chamber but have managed to thumb their noses at the Gaullists. They stopped the assembly from meeting last year and local government began to grind to a standstill.

About 1200 autonomist squatters took over the chamber for a month and the governor was forced to call in riot police.

The autonomists want all seven members of the government council for the islands to be elected by the Territorial Assembly and to elect in their turn a president to replace the present Paris-appointed governor.

There has been a hardening of attitude by the autonomists since watered-down new political statutes were proposed by Paris earlier this year.

"From Gen. de Gaulle to Giscard, we've been taken for a ride. We've had enough of talking. I only want one thing -- independence," Mr. Sanford said in an interview with Pacific Islands Monthly.

On paper, the French Constitution guarantees all overseas territories the right to become self-governing or independent.

Fifteen African colonies took advantage of this provision between 1958 and 1962 to become independent. The Comoros Islands won independence in 1975 and the Territory of Africa is due to start life as an independent republic on June 27.

But, as Mr. Sanford complains, "in striking contrast, the French government has consistently refused the people of French Polynesia the same constitutionally guaranteed right to run our own affairs and maintain against our will an old-fashioned colonial rule of the most reprehensible type."

The 15,000 sq. kms. New Hebrides archipelago, which is administered by a unique British and French condominium dating back to 1906, has a mainly Melanesian population of about 80,000, and produces copra, frozen fish, timber and manganese.

The condominium's first Territorial Assembly met late last

French Polynesia, an archipelago, with a population of about 120,000, includes the Society Islands (Tahiti, Moorea and so on), the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, the Gambier and the Tubuai Islands in its 6,500 sq. kms.

Long a paradise for tourists seeking relatively unspoiled Pacific retreats, the more accessible islands of the group, such as Tahiti, have suffered heavily because of France's nuclear testing programme.

The Pacific Nuclear Experiments Centre (CEP) was set up at Tahiti and three atolls to the south -- Mururoa, Fangataufa and Hao -- in 1966 after Algerian independence forced France to abandon tests in the Sahara desert.

Before underground testing was introduced in 1975, French Polynesia earned half of its internal revenue from the programme and became extremely dependent on it. Now, it is in the grip of a recession. Spending has been cut and there are fewer jobs.

There is little hope that tourism, which prospered until 1972, will recover sufficiently to fill the gap left by the scaled-down nuclear programme.

The strained atmosphere in Tahiti parallels that in New Caledonia, where political militancy and racial friction have become regular features; and in the Wallis and Futuna Islands and the Anglo-French condominium of New Hebrides.

New Caledonia, which has the world's largest nickel deposits and is the third-largest producer after Canada and the Soviet Union, is the remotest but by far the most significant of the French Pacific territories in economic terms.

The territory, which has an area of about 18,000 sq. kms, and a population nudging 130,000, enjoyed an economic boom between 1969 and 1972, when nickel fetched high prices, but then slipped into a sharp depression, which triggered political unrest.

The clamour for self-rule intensified in the middle of 1973 with a campaign of bomb attacks. Then, in the latter half of 1974, there were serious anti-French demonstrations and industrial strikes.

When France's State Secretary for Overseas Territories, Olivier Stur, cancelled a planned visit to New Caledonia last August, autonomists called it a political snub. (Autonomists are in the minority by one seat in the 30-seat Territorial Assembly but New Caledonia's sole deputy in Paris, Roch Pidjot, is an autonomist).

An announcement shortly afterwards that Paris was preparing new political statutes to attach overseas territories completely to France was attacked as "camouflaged neo-colonialism".

Melanesian leader Yann Uregel, of the Union Multiraciale Party, called the planned statutes "time bomb" and said they would destroy Melanesian hope of "normal evolution towards independence."

Like the autonomists in Tahiti, Mr. Uregel called for new elections to the Territorial Assembly before any change was made to the statutes. But last December, the National Assembly confirmed by 295 votes to 185 that New Caledonia would become a department of metropolitan France.

The 15,000 sq. kms. New Hebrides archipelago, which is administered by a unique British and French condominium dating back to 1906, has a mainly Melanesian population of about 80,000, and produces copra, frozen fish, timber and manganese.

The condominium's first Territorial Assembly met late last

year for the first time -- a year after being elected. However, it has been paralysed since the Vanuatu Party who hold half the 42 seats, recently walked out in protest over six seats being filled by members elected by the New Hebrides Chamber of Commerce.

The party is seeking independence by the end of the year and has appealed to the United Nations and the South Pacific Forum for help.

By Peter Robbs

PARIS (Geminil). — Djibouti, 9,000 square miles of shimmering dust across the Bab el Mandeb Straits from Aden at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, is set to start life as an independent republic on June 27, but already huge problems are building up.

France acquired the tiny territory in the 1890s developing it as a coaling station for ships bound for the Far East and as a strategic counterweight to the British presence in Aden and Somaliland. In those days it was a barren and worthless pocket handkerchief of land peopled by a few wandering herders and Arab fishermen.

Today it has strategic importance that could make it tomorrow's centre of superpower rivalry, and it is hard to see how the future republic's statehood and sovereignty can be guaranteed.

France has pledged to do so, but would Paris want to get involved in a war on the Horn of Africa if either of Djibouti's neighbours, Ethiopia and Somalia, tried to seize it?

For the time being, the French will maintain a military presence. The existing garrison of roughly 6,000 is being bolstered and a French naval squadron including the aircraft carrier Clemenceau is in port.

Observers believe no more than about 2,000 French troops will stay behind to train the armed forces; the French government and all the Djibouti political groups represented at independence talks in Paris earlier this year declared in a joint statement that there was no question of any foreign base after independence.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has said France will continue the present level of aid -- some \$140 million a year.

Somalia, which also claims about a third of Ethiopia (the Ogaden) and Kenya's Northern Frontier District too, has always regarded Djibouti as one of its lost lands, although officially stating that it has dropped its claims.

For Ethiopia, Djibouti port and the narrow-gauge Chemin de Fer Franco-Ethiopien, which winds the 500 miles up from the Red Sea to Addis Ababa, 8,500 feet above sea level, are both absolutely vital.

Two-thirds of Ethiopia's exports and imports flow along the line. Its only other outlets are in Eritrea Province, now in turmoil as 15 years of secessionist war approaches a climax.

Ethiopia could be forced to intervene militarily, despite its present chaotic internal situation, if ever the Djibouti outlet was threatened. The country's vulnerability has been highlighted by recent Eritrean guerrilla attacks on Massawa and Assab ports. Like Somalia though, Addis Ababa has pledged to honour the future state's sovereignty.

Fidel Castro's trips to Addis Ababa and Mogadishu last month were interpreted by some Horn of Africa watchers as part of a bid to reconcile two governments in the Soviet orbit.

The situation could become more interesting still if, as French officials now believe it can, Saudi Arabia -- which along with Sudan, Egypt and the Yemen is bent on making the Red Sea an Arab "mare nostrum" -- succeeds in drawing Somalia away from the Soviet camp in return for promises of Arab aid.

## ECONOSCOPE

By Jawad Ahmad

## Industry is the key (2)

Last week, this column dealt with some of the industrial problems in Jordan. Special importance is being attached to the industrial sector at this stage due to the role it is assigned to play in Jordan's development schemes. Moreover, His Highness Prince Hassan is trying his best to arrive at an "industrial package" which contains all the linkages and ingredients required.

The problem which deserves special emphasis at this stage is the measurement of the industrial burden. If industry is to grow as desired, then its share of burdens at infancy must be light enough to live with. A word of caution is in order here however: The "industrial burden" must not evolve into a broad motto which industrialists will use as an excuse for unlimited demands.

The most notable burden is the common error of mixing industry and trade. Right now there is general dissatisfaction with the manner trade is being conducted. Traders are accused of exploiting the excess demand situation by charging unduly high prices.

Industrialists seem to bear a part of that dissatisfaction. But this confusion is not utterly groundless if unjustifiable. Many importers have turned to industrial pursuits with little change

in attitude. Yet, the freedom to push up prices in industry is more limited than in trade. And the methods to contain costs in trade are much easier than in industry.

The second burden is far from the negative public image. It deals with the current financial situation. After the brisk credit market of the period 1973-1976, the market has slowed down. Although banks are not expected to offer capital formation loans, they are supposed to extend credit for the purpose of financing commercial transactions of industries. This, however, is a short-lived problem and there are sufficiently available funds in the market. The newly-established Amman financial market can be counted on as a source of equity and loans.

The third burden relates to the increasing costs embodied in higher wages, taxes, raw materials and machinery. These issues serve as constraints on the size of feasible plants. Moreover, technology and innovation must assume a catalyst role in pushing costs to their bottom minimum.

There are problems; and policy-makers must find ways and means to cope with them. Hurdles exist but they are not unsurmountable.

## ...as Djibouti finally takes the road to independence

That would no doubt result in closure of the Soviet base at Berbera and the expulsion of Soviet and Cuban personnel. But this is speculation and a change of partners by Somalia might in any case not result in any modification of its attitude to Djibouti.

Ethiopia's Marxist junta, the Dergue, has reportedly already acquired its first consignments of Soviet weaponry including tanks (of a slightly less advanced type than Somalia's 250 T-34 and T-54/55s).

Soviet aid for Ethiopia's now demoralised armed forces could alter the power balance radically. Moscow's reward would no doubt be the use of one or both of the Eritrean ports once the Eritrean rebellion had been put down.

According to a recent report in The Washington Post, France is now counting on Somalia to emerge as the dominant power in the Horn of Africa region and to help arrange a peaceful transition to independence in Djibouti.

That view, and it seems a plausible one in the light of France's apparent shift away from Ethiopian-supported groups towards the territory's Somali-backed political parties, counts on the supposition that Ethiopia is in for a period of internal disorder and weakness. On May 8 Djibouti's 230,000

people voted "yes" in an independence referendum. The next stage is to vote for members of a 65-seat assembly.

The population is about equally divided between the Somali-related Issas and the Afars, whose traditional lands extend far westwards and northwards into Ethiopia, and they have been bitter enemies since time immemorial.

Until last year, the French, who always managed to maintain close relations with Ethiopia, had favoured the Afars, systematically altering the population balance in their favour by means of an electrified fence which kept would-be Issa migrants away. Relations with Somalia were difficult.

Former Prime Minister, Ali Aref Bourhan, favoured continued links with France and at first opposed independence. He later founded a pro-independence party, but only after it was clear that the tide of opinion had turned in that direction, and that it was his only chance of staying in power.

Fervent Gaullist though he was, the French abandoned Mr. Aref last year when the territorial assembly gave him a vote of no-confidence, and he resigned, but has stayed on as leader of the main Afar party, the National Union for Independence (UNI). Mr. Aref's pa-

rtly and other Afar groups boycotted the independence talks and have refused to put up candidates for parliamentary elections, a protest at France's shift of favour towards the Issas, it seems.

While Mr. Aref sulks, the Somali-backed groups headed by the African People's Independence League (LPAI) have gone ahead and nominated a list that includes 30 Afars, 33 Issas and two Arabs.

According to the French official responsible for the Overseas Territories, Olivier Stur, the list is "very representative".

The French authorities have grown used to damping down the occasional bloody explosions of Afar-Issa hatred that have been a regular feature of Djibouti life in recent years and are taking tough measures to prevent violence in the next two months.

Men have even been banned from carrying the fighting sticks (called "boud" by the Issas and "hadda" by the Afars) which are regarded as symbols of manliness and arms dealing has been strictly outlawed.

Until the elections are over and the new republic-Africa's 48th nation -- firmly installed, the French are determined to keep a tight rein on these two tribes of impetuous fighters.

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Geneva	ar	15 55	15 55	
Zurich	ar			15 50

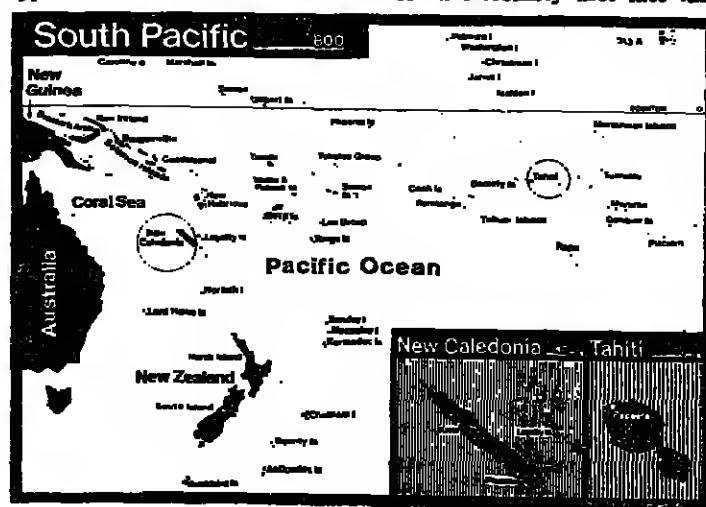
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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

The Jordan Times Daily Guide which has been a regular feature of this page will, from today, appear on page 8 where, we feel, it more appropriately belongs. We hope our readers will prefer this arrangement.





# Seminar stresses need for policy on science

AMMAN (JNA). — The urgent need for a national policy on science and technology emerged at the close of a seminar held at the Royal Scientific Society Sunday.

The science and technology seminar was discussing recommendations adopted by its three-day seminar last week. The seminar, chaired by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan,

stressed that such a policy must meet society's needs and conform with the development plan and the scientific requirements of the Arab World.

Delegates also called for an evaluation and delineation of scientific research potential and stressed a proposal to entrust to one or several scientific institutes the task of undertaking research and coordinating with other institutes.

They called on the government to allocate a minimum 20 per cent of the country's national income for scientific research purposes; to organize a science and technology week each year to make the public aware of the importance of science; and to hold an annual seminar for the assessment of the year's research achievements.

Jordanian universities were requested to increase their higher education output and permanent institutes to exchange scientific experience, information and visits with similar Arab and foreign organizations.

The seminar finally called for the formation of a preparatory committee to prepare the ground for an important science and technology seminar scheduled here for November.

At the closing session, Prince Hassan called for the establishment of a fund to finance scientific research and emphasized that the role of women in development should be taken into account, particularly as women form 12 per cent of Jordan's trained labour force.

The delegation will stay one week in the Soviet Union to exchange views with Soviet parliamentarians on the Middle East and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The group, which includes Jamad Touqan, Ahmad Al-Laz, Hassan Al-Kayed and Kas-

## Talhouni states in Beirut Great hope exists for stable Lebanon

AMMAN (JNA). — On a short stopover made by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation at Beirut airport Monday on its way to the Soviet Union, Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni told the press that there is great hope for a stable and unified Lebanon because of the vigilance and national sacrifice of the Arab peace-keeping force and President Sarkis' efforts.

The visit to the Soviet Union, he added, is at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet and comes within the framework of mutual visits by Jordanian and Soviet parliamentarians. A Soviet parliamentary team visited Jordan in 1975, he concluded.

Mr. Talhouni stated in Beirut that talks would centre on the Middle East crisis, since Arab leaders had made their policy on the subject clear during meetings with world leaders. This policy consists of total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition by Israel of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, he affirmed.

The delegation will stay one week in the Soviet Union to exchange views with Soviet parliamentarians on the Middle East and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The group, which includes Jamad Touqan, Ahmad Al-Laz, Hassan Al-Kayed and Kas-



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with journalists to brief them on the outcome of his visit to the United States and his discussions with President Jimmy Carter and other U.S. leaders on the Middle East crisis. The King also answered questions put to him by the press. He thanked the journalists for "their vital and constructive role in conveying a correct and objective picture of the stage through which the Middle East issue is passing."

## British trade team talks business here

AMMAN (JNA). — The development of Anglo-Jordanian trade relations was the subject of discussion at a meeting Monday between members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce and a visiting British trade delegation.

The leader of the British team, Lord Colgrain, affirmed his country's readiness to participate in economic projects in Jordan and to promote existing relations.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the London Chamber of Commerce should sup-

ply British businessmen with all necessary information about Jordan's development projects.

Earlier the British delegation met with Minister of Industry and Commerce Najmeddine Dajani. It also visited the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Industrial Development Bank. The British group comprises 14 members representing a number of industrial firms and institutions in Britain.

The British Council presents Roman Polanski's film of Shakespeare's Macbeth, 6:30 p.m., at the British Council Hall, Jabbal Amman.

A film entitled Der plotzliche Reichtum der Armen Leute von Kambach, 8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabbal Amman.

## NABULSI PROPOSES ARAB FINANCIAL STRATEGY

DAMASCUS, March 16 (JNA). — The Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi, today called for the establishment of an Arab financial strategy within the framework of the economic one.

Dr. Nabulsi, who was speaking at a conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture here, added that if such a strategy were drawn up, the most suitable means to exploit Arab natural resources would be found.

Dr. Nabulsi also advocated the free movement of capital among Arab countries and reviewed Jordanian-Syrian economic cooperation.

## TRANSPORT TEAM VISITS SAUDI ARABIA FOR PROJECT AID

AMMAN (Agencies). — A Jordanian delegation went to Riyadh Sunday to secure loans for development projects from the Saudi Development Fund.

Minister of Transport Ali Shalhat, who is leading the delegation, said before leaving that Jordan is seeking finances, notably for the development of the Port of Aqaba and the building of a 23 km. stretch of railway line linking the main Amman-Aqaba line and the phosphate mines of Al Hassa.

## USAID director here visits potash project

AMMAN (JNA). — The director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan and the U.S. ambassador here visited the potash project on the southeastern shore of the Dead Sea Sunday.

for the separation and processing of potash and its preparation for export via the Port of Aqaba.

The ambassador and the USAID director also visited the workers village for the project.

They looked over progress on the first stage of the project, which started at the end of last year.

The Director General of the Arab Potash Company, Mr. Ali Al-Khasawneh, explained to them what had been achieved.

USAID has contributed JD 1 million out of a total cost of JD 3.5 million for the first stage of the project, which should be completed by the end of August.

The second stage, to start immediately after the first, includes the building of salt-works for the extraction of potash from the brine and a plant

## EAST GERMAN ECONOMIC TEAM DUE IN JUNE

AMMAN (JNA). — An East German economic delegation is expected here early in June for talks with officials on ways of bolstering bilateral economic relations and on finance for projects in the five-year plan, sources in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said Monday.

The East German team will stay here for several days.

## Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fil for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.3	93.5
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.2
Syrian pound	81.0	81.3
Iraqi dinar	947.0	958.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,146.0	1,150.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

## What's Going On

The British Council presents Roman Polanski's film of Shakespeare's Macbeth, 6:30 p.m., at the British Council Hall, Jabbal Amman.

A film entitled Der plotzliche Reichtum der Armen Leute von Kambach, 8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabbal Amman.

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## NATIONAL NOTES

AMMAN. — A second Jumbo Boeing 747 plane has arrived for Jia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. It carries the name of Princess Iyad, daughter of His Majesty King Hussein.

AMMAN. — Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation Mohammad Shabab Ismail opened the first scientific seminar on telecommunications engineering at the Technical Training Institute Monday. The three-day seminar, held in cooperation with a Dutch firm, will study a semi-electronic system for automatic telephone exchanges, which might be introduced in Jordan if it proves more practicable and scientifically superior to the present systems.

AMMAN. — The Engineers Association Monday elected Michael Asannat Deputy President of the association in succession to the late Husni Baddad.

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## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

\* LONDON, May 16 (AFP). — Canada may pull out of its negotiations with the Euratom Agency if France goes ahead with its plans to sell Pakistan a nuclear waste re-processing plant. External Affairs Minister Donald Jamieson said here Wednesday. He told a press conference at the end of the Nato Summit that Canada would refuse any agreement with Euratom unless France was prepared to "modify" its position on the sale.

\* NEW DELHI, May 16 (AFP). — Workers for Sanjay Gandhi's Maruti People's Car Factory yesterday began a 48-hour hunger strike outside the home here of Prime Minister Morarji Desai, demanding nationalisation of the factory and denouncing the former prime minister's son as incompetent.

\* TEHRAN, May 16 (AFP). — The Philippines, a traditional oil client of Indonesia, is now also turning to Iran for its fuel supplies. The Pars Press Agency announced here yesterday that Iran has agreed to supply the Philippines with 1.8 million barrels of fuel a year, or approximately 5,000 barrels a day.

\* NEW YORK, May 16 (AFP). — Vietnam will quickly grant oil prospecting permits to American companies for off-shore deposits if the two countries reach agreement on resumption of relations, Newsweek Magazine reported yesterday. In an article on the Vietnamese economic situation, the news weekly said that applications from U.S. oil firms for such prospecting would be approved "within a week" of any reconciliation with Washington.

\* NEW DELHI, May 16 (AFP). — The Indian government will soon acquire the full ownership of the Oil India Limited (OIL) in which it has already had 50 per cent equity partnership, informed sources reported yesterday. The other 50 per cent shares are held by the British-owned Burmah Oil Company (BOC). The Oil India has been involved in exploration and production of crude oil in Assam and elsewhere in northeastern India. It produces an estimated 3 million tons of crude oil a year.

## WALL STREET REPORT

The Jordan Times apologises for the non-appearance of the New York stock exchange report, which was caused by technical problems affecting our receivers.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed mixed with leading industrials slightly lower and government stocks steady to a shade firmer, dealers said.

Leading equities retreated on profit taking after early buying interest faded, but finished above the day's lows in fairly quiet trading, dealers added. At 1500 the FT. index was down 2.2 at 465.6. High-coupon long-dated government stocks were occasionally 1/8 to 1/4 higher with other loans steady.

Oils were firm, with B.P. up 10p after weekend press comment, while banks were narrowly mixed. Mining shares and Australians tended mostly easier. Canadians were a shade firmer.

ICI was a penny higher among leaders by the close after an earlier fall of round 3p, and similar gains were scored by Marks, Lucas and Bat.

Net falls of a few pence were seen in GKN, Tubes, Beecham, Courtauld and Unilever. Hawker closed 7p down while falls of 4p or 5p were noted in Glaxo, GEC and EMI, dealers said.

## Sheikh Yamani visits UAE

ABU DHABI, May 16 (R). — Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani arrived unexpectedly here today to discuss coordinating oil policies with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan, well informed sources said. No official word on the visit was given but well informed sources said Sheikh Yamani's talks would deal with coordinating the oil policies of Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

## Britain is Europe's shopping paradise

LONDON, May 16 (R). — Britain is the shopping paradise of West Europe, according to a survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

The survey, designed to provide information for British exporters said, that prices in Britain for a variety of goods were sometimes less than half those in other West European countries.

An average size refrigerator, which costs 85 sterling in Britain, sells for 220 sterling in Belgium, 195 sterling in France,

## Israel's cost of living index rose by 2.4% in April

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 16 (R). — Israel's cost of living index rose by 2.4 per cent last month, bringing the increase since the beginning of the year to 5.2 per cent, the government's Central Bureau of Statistics has announced.

The index now stood at 122.9 compared with 120 in April, but the increase would probably be higher next month due to seasonal rises in the cost of fruit and vegetables, the bureau said.

Less than 24 hours before the general elections here, shopkeepers have reported heavy buying of staple products such as flour, rice and sugar.

Some Israeli housewives were buying 10 or 20 times as much as usual because of widespread fears that the new government would order a devaluation or even an exchange of currency after the elections, the shopkeepers said.

## Qatar denies reported decision to cancel 5% oil price hike

DOHA, May 16 (R). — Qatar yesterday joined Kuwait in denying a report that 11 major oil producing countries had decided against implementing a planned 5 per cent price rise.

Officials close to Oil Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifeh Al Thani said no such decision had been taken and no agreement reached.

An authoritative weekly mag-

## Europe's shopping paradise

194 sterling in Switzerland and 180 sterling in Sweden, the survey said.

But the CBI said although consumer goods were cheaper in Britain than in the rest of West Europe, the wage gap between British workers and their continental counterparts was also widening.

The average weekly wage of 72 sterling for a skilled worker in Britain contrasted with up to 180 sterling in Norway, 90 sterling in France and 123 sterling in West Germany, it stated.

The survey said that clothes, food, petrol and housing were cheaper in Britain than in the rest of West Europe, but that Britons could buy cheaper spirits and cigarettes in some other European countries.

azine, the Middle East Economic Survey, reported on Friday that the decision by 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would be formally announced on May 20.

The magazine said the move not to impose the increase planned for July 1 was led by Venezuela.

Yesterday Kuwait's oil minister Abdul Muttalib Al Kazimi said there had been no such decision.

The Qatari officials said: "consultations to end the two-tier price system were still going on. No compromise solu-

tion has been reached though many proposals have been put forward.

"Any compromise will only be announced during the OPEC Stockholm meeting on July 12."

Oil prices have brought sharp division within the 13-member OPEC group.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had said they would impose only a 5 per cent increase during this year.

The other 11 members voted to increase prices by 10 per cent from January 1 and a further 5 per cent from July 1.

## Carter plans 24-nation nuclear energy meeting

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter plans a 24-nation conference to re-examine nuclear energy and the international problems it raises, a reliable source said here Saturday.

The source said details of organisation of the conference would be worked out over the next two months. He said Mr. Carter had obtained agreement to this from the leaders of Britain, France, West Ger-

many, Canada, Japan and Italy at their summit meeting in London last week.

Other countries approached by Mr. Carter included South Africa, Brazil and some communist countries, the source said. Most had reacted favourably.

The re-examination could be expected to take at least two years. It would be held under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

## U.S. trade deficit may be \$20 billion for '77

LONDON, May 16 (AFP). — The U.S. trade deficit in the current year could be around 20,000 million, according to the monetary research body Forex today.

It said the U.S. dollar may well lose out in the coming months to strong currencies like the Deutschmark, yen and Swiss franc.

West Germany and Japan will probably be more inclined than they have been to letting their currencies rise slowly on the money marts, in view of their refusal at the recent Western Economic Summit in London to boost their growth, even though the rate appears

to be falling short of targets, especially in the case of West Germany.

Forex believed the International Monetary Fund officials would encourage revaluation, which was reflected by trade figures showing a fall in U.S. exports.

Forex further said that even in Japan, where the yen has risen, the dollar has lost ground in relation to the Japanese yen, the French franc, the lira and the Canadian dollar, due to inflation differences and the way interest rates move.

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## HORSE RACING RESULTS

## FIRST RACE

FOR LOCAL COUNTRY HORSES, THIRD CLASS

DISTANCE 1,400 METRES

The first: NIMIR EL FALA, owner Adil Hattar.

Time: 1.38 minutes.

The second: DABHA, owner Mishrif Aifan.

The third: J. MARKA, owner Nadim S. Al Dajani.

Win: 200 fils — 450 fils

Twin: 400 fils — JD 2



## THIRD RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSES

DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

The first: YACOUT, owner H.H. Sherif Jamil Ibn Naser.

Time: 1.52 minutes.

The second: A. EL HAWA, owner Bahjat Fanous.

The third: KWAIES, owner Tawfiq Ksous.

Win: 200 fils — 500 fils

Twin: 400 fils — JD 1.5



## FIFTH RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

The first: FOZAN, owner H.H. Naser Ibn Jamil.

Time: 1.49 minutes.

The second: TUL, owner Khalid Borqan.

The third: FAWAR, owner Sami Koub.

Win: 200 fils — 300 fils

Twin: 400 fils — JD 1.4

Double tote: 400 fils — JD 4.3



## SECOND RACE

FOR BEGINNER HORSES

DISTANCE 1,000 METRES

The first: MARTINAZ, owner Wasif Bisharat.

Time: 1.8 minutes.

The second: BAHRAIN, owner El Talla's Stables.

The third: ANBAR, owner Nadim S. Al Dajani.

Win: 200 fils — 300 fils

Twin: 400 fils — JD 2.5



## FOURTH RACE

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 1,000 METRES

The first: AJAB, owner Marwan S Lallas.

Time: 1.8 minutes.

The second: AMIR, owner Nadim S. Al Dajani.

The third: ZOBA AH, owner Wasif Bisharat.

Win: 200 fils — 600 fils

Twin: 400 fils — JD 4



## SIXTH RACE

FOR FIRST CLASS HORSES

DISTANCE 2,000 METRES

The first: FAKHIR ZIAD, owner Yacoub.

Time: 2.18 minutes.

The second: BAYADIR, owner Bisharat.

The third: HILAL WASIF, owner Bisharat.

Win: 200 fils — JD 1.8

Twin: 400 fils — JD 1.5



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1977

# Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** If you are still and serene, your intuitive perceptions will be at a new height and accuracy; but if you are in any sort of turmoil, in thoughts or actions, you may have to face some very difficult conditions. Finish projects already started with poise.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look at your financial affairs objectively and you will know how to handle them more intelligently. Be careful of your possessions.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) A new treatment could prove to be beneficial to your health. Show you are clever in handling a social matter. Don't neglect to pay bills.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Use your intuition in handling difficult affairs instead of neglecting them. Don't permit a loved one to force you into an unintelligent action. Think of your personal welfare more.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to July 21) See the good side of a personal friend who has irked you. Plan social affairs well to advance.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Be careful in how you state your views to bigwigs or you could mar your future instead of improving it. Take no chances where credit is concerned. Make pressing payments.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study new proposals well and put only those in operation that are suited to your talents and are easy for you. Make new allies whose experience has been greater, more diversified than yours.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) There is uncertainty in the air so be sure to check everything you do carefully. Show loved ones how much they are needed.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to come to a better understanding with associates who are miffed about something or other and work well together once more.

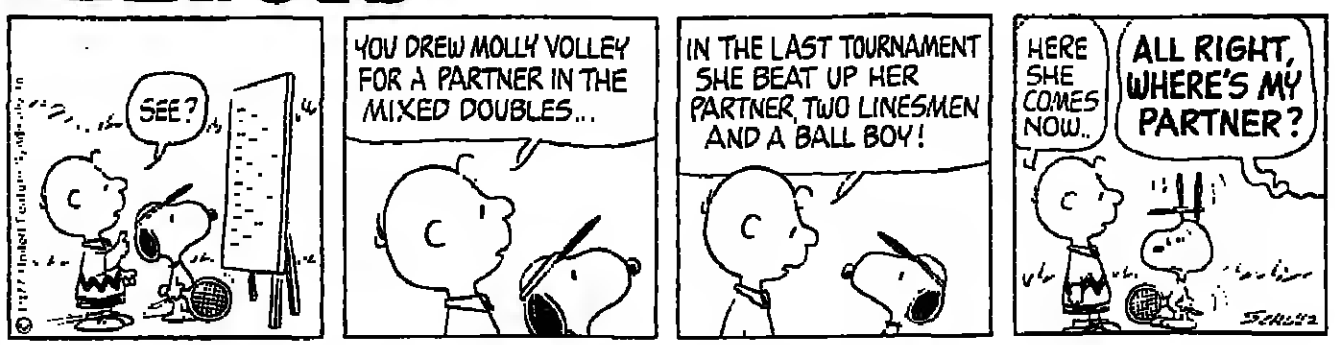
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Finish work you started some time ago and gain benefits from it that you deserve. Try to please fellow workers more.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget about recreation right now; this is not a good time for such. Listen carefully to what mete, loved one, has to suggest.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find new and better ways of handling routine chores and gain more time for yourself. Use your natural ability.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Follow your hunches in dealing with others, getting errands done, corresponding. If a loved one is being difficult, do not get into any serious conversations right now. Wait until tempers cool.

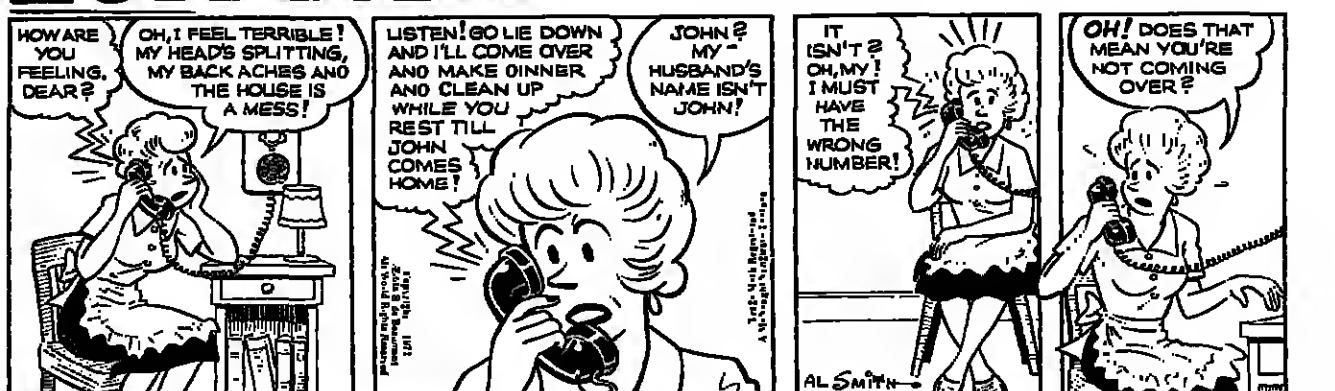
## PEANUTS



## ANDY GAPP



## MUTT & JEFF



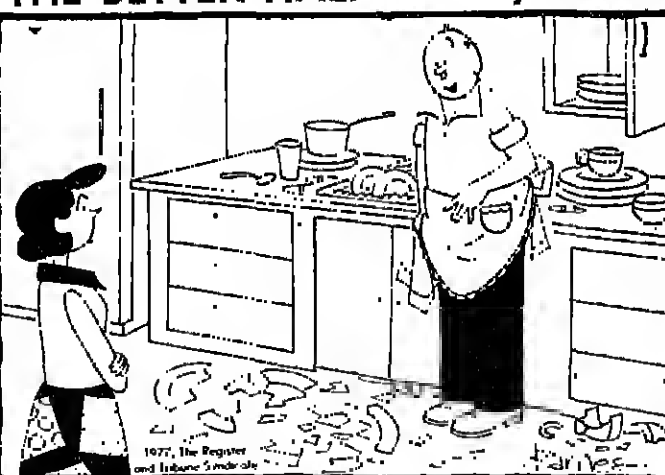
## THE FLINTSTONES



## LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



## THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



## WORLD RECORD

The world's tallest minaret is the Qutb Minar, south of New Delhi, India, built in 1194 to a height of 72.54 metres (238 ft.).

## GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

DEAR MR. GOREN:  
Q.—From time to time, I have run across the term "fourth-suit forcing." Is this some weird modern gimmick, or what?—L. R. Douglas, Miami Beach, Fla.  
(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—First, let us give an example of a fourth-suit bid:

North South  
1 ♠ 2 ♣  
2 ♦ 3 ♣

South's bid of two hearts is the fourth suit. In standard methods, this bid is forcing, since it is a new suit by responder. It shows either a suit or values in the suit, though it might be a three-card fragment.

Those players who use the "fourth-suit forcing" principle do not promise any values in the bid suit. More often than not, it shows three low cards in the bid suit, though it might be a genuine suit. It is used to clarify hands that prove difficult to bid in normal methods. As an example, using this principle South would bid two hearts in the above sequence on a holding such as: ♠ Kx ♥ xxx ♦ xxx ♣ AKQxx.

South has no good bid over two diamonds. A rebid of three clubs would show a weaker hand with a longer club suit, while two no trump without a stopper in the unbid suit is unthinkable. Similarly, a preference to two spades misdescribes the hand as a whole.

The bidder of the fourth suit asks partner to bid no trump if he holds a stopper in that suit. If he does not, he must continue to describe his hand. He may not jump raise the fourth suit, since it might not be—and probably is not—a genuine suit.

A bid of the fourth suit usually promises a minimum of 10 or 11 points. Note that it is forcing for one round only, not to game. Therefore, with a good stopper in the fourth suit add the values for game, opener should jump to three no trump.

Q.—Could I have made six spades on the following hand?

West led the seven of spades.—S. L. Peters, Chicago, Ill.

A.—Not without considerable aid from the dummy. The trump lead is very friendly, but the dummy is still doomed unless right-hand opponent also pitches in and helps. You are going to need finesses in both major suits, and you do not have the entries for this despite the lead.

Your best chance is to cover with dummy's eight of trumps. If East goes up with the king, or plays low, allowing the lead to remain on the table, you are home. You can get back to dummy with the ace of diamonds for a heart finesse, and you will lose only a heart trick.

Best defense beats the hand, but you put East in a stern test by covering the opening lead with dummy's eight. East's first trick move is to cover with the ten of spades, forcing you to win the jack. Your best counter is to unblock the king-queen of diamonds, then exit with the five of spades.

If East takes the king, the slam can no longer be beaten. Dummy's nine of spades is now an entry, and after discarding a heart on the ace of diamonds, you can take the heart finesse for your twelfth trick.

But notice what happens if East steels himself and refuses to take his trump trick! You are now cut off from dummy and, struggle as you might, there is no way you can avoid losing two tricks as long as West holds the jack and one heart and the fourth club. Try it.

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEBEO  
GELEY  
MERDIP  
KOYDEN

Answer: "CRAWL DOILY ADDUCE SLUICE" (Answers tomorrow)

Sunday's Jumbles: CRAWL DOILY ADDUCE SLUICE  
Answer: How those gangsters sometimes took their enemies—FOR A SLAY RIDE

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Shipping containers 29 Salt of sulfur acid  
7 Uncoverts 31 Beasts of burden  
12 Carbonate 32 Masculine name  
13 Louse is one 33 Live  
14 Pointless 35 Anglo-Saxon king  
15 Meat jelly 37 Ulmost  
16 Skirt edge 41 Sour substances  
17 Propeller 43 Spawl  
19 Poetic 45 Rapier  
20 Aim bones 46 Assigns  
22 Attilci 47 Dirlt  
24 Worshipped of 48 Lowen in grade

DOWN

1 Specie 5 Style of dancing  
2 Netmark 6 Chan  
3 Starch vinding 7 Conductor  
8 Duplicates 9 Vauld recess  
10 Green copper arsenate  
11 Pouch  
12 Frame-up  
13 Pulpy fruit  
14 Ellicable  
15 Fleur-de-lis  
16 Capucun  
17 monkev  
18 Pinnu  
19 Perzan  
20 Supelative  
21 ending  
22 English river  
23 Epic poem  
24 Iaro root  
25 Unched Irish  
26 Picher's glove  
27 Inomally  
28 German composer  
29 East Indian weight  
30 Tree

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC RADIO	AMMAN AIRPORT
Channel 3 & 6: 6:00 Quran 6:05 Cartoons 6:30 Swiss Family Robinson 8:00 News in Arabic	5:20 Reportage Channel 6: 7:30 News in Hebrew 7:45 Varieties 8:30 Phyllis 8:10 Rich man, poor man 10:00 News in English 10:15 Gibberville	Arrivals: 6:30 Bahrain, Bangkok 7:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi 8:10 Agaba 10:40 Beirut 11:15 Doha, Kuwait (BA) 11:45 Kuwait (KAC) 18:15 Madrid, Rome 18:30 Beirut (MEA) 20:05 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM) 20:15 Frankfurt 20:20 Copenhagen, Paris 22:00 London 00:30 Rome (Alitalia)
Channel 3: 7:00 Hobbies and art 8:30 Arabic series	Channel 5: 7:00 News in Hebrew 7:45 Varieties 8:30 Phyllis 8:10 Rich man, poor man 10:00 News in English 10:15 Gibberville	Departures: 6:20 Agaba 6:30 Beirut 8:30 Paris, London 8:45 Beirut (MEA) 8:50 Frankfurt 12:15 London (BA) 12:45 Kuwait (KAC) 19:40 Cairo 22:00 Jeddah 22:30 Abu Dhabi 23:00 Kuwait 24:00 Bahrain, Bangkok 01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)
RADIO JORDAN	VOICE OF AMERICA	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
7:00 Morning melodies 7:30 News reports 8:00 Sign off 8:20 Pop session 12:00 News summary 12:30 Pop session 14:00 News 14:10 Radio magazine 14:30 Special feature 15:00 Concert hour	GMT 00:00 The Breakfast Show 00:30, 04:00, 08:00 and 08:30 GMT: News, Reports, VOA Current Summary, 00:30, 04:30 GMT: 19:30 The Pleasure Years 12:15 The Pleasure Years 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 News: 24 hours 13:30 In Our Time 1945-1955 14:15 Report on Religion	Amman (government) Tel. 71111 Civil defense rescue Tel. 36381-4 Fire headquarters Tel. 22900 First aid, fire, police Tel. 10 Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) Tel. 38891-3 Municipal water service (emergency) Tel. 37111-3 Police headquarters Tel. 38941 Majdala, ravine patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help Tel. 31111, 37777 Airport information (Arabic) Tel. 62005
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## IRA says captive British officer was "executed"

BELFAST, May 16 (R). — Irish guerrillas claimed today to have killed a British army captain they kidnapped in South Armagh.

A message teleprinted to news media offices said the 29-year-old Capt. Robert Nairac had been executed by "the First Battalion, Irish Republican Army, South Armagh."

Capt. Nairac, an officer in the exclusive Grenadier Guards, was abducted on Saturday night outside a bar called the Three Steps on the British side of the Irish border.

It is a rugged area where gunmen of the Provisional IRA hold almost unchallenged sway. Police rarely venture into the remotest districts of South Armagh even the army seldom patrols there outside the protection of armoured vehicles.

Which made it the more

puzzling that Capt. Nairac was in civilian clothes and carrying only a pistol when seized by his kidnappers in the Three Steps car park.

The IRA statement said: "We arrested him on Saturday night and executed him after interrogation in which he admitted he was in an SAS unit."

The IRA said: "Our intelligence department had a number of photos in their possession and the late captain had been recognised from them."

The IRA statement was issued through the Belfast Republican Press Centre, an office in the Catholic Falls district of Belfast which acts as a local headquarters for Sinn Fein, political counterpart of the IRA, in its campaign to drive the British out of Northern Ireland.

After the disappearance of

Capt. Nairac the army buried strong patrols into the hunt with helicopters buzzing low over the hills and meadows.

The incident came as Northern Ireland was quietening down after a strike of militant Protestants who, among other demands, wanted a more forceful drive to smash the IRA.

## Sudan maintains inter-Arab contacts on Red Sea

DOHA, May 16 (R). — Sudan's Vice President and Prime Minister Al Rasheed Al Tahir Bakr said last night that his country was in contact with the other Arab states on the Red Sea security so that it will remain an Arab lake.

Mr. Bakr, who was here on a two-day visit to the Qatari Television that the Red Sea should remain free from big power conflicts.

He believed it was the duty of his country to face the dangers which threatened the Red Sea because of the strategic importance of the area.

"The Red Sea is a vital artery which links the oil-rich Gulf with the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean on the coasts of which several industrialised countries exist," Mr. Bakr said.

This was why it enjoyed special importance which affected the security of its littoral countries and the Gulf states as well, he added.

## Gouled elected head of Djibouti's cabinet

Djibouti, May 16 (R). — Mr. Hassan Gouled was today elected head of an interim government to rule the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas until independence on June 27, after which he is expected to become the Republic of Djibouti's first president.

Mr. Gouled, leader of the Popular Assembly for Independence Movement, is the oldest member of the Chamber of Deputies which today chose him to head a 10-man cabinet that includes six leading members of the "African People's League for Independence."

The Chamber of Deputies was itself elected on May 8 at the same time as a referendum on independence for the Red Sea territory, France's last African colony. (See related feature on p. 2)

## Mondale is satisfied with Portugal parley

LISBON, May 16 (R). — U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale today reviewed financial and military cooperation with Portuguese leaders and said afterwards there had been complete agreement on the matters discussed.

Speaking to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, he said: "There are no contentious bilateral issues separating us. We were in complete agreement."

Mr. Mondale, on the first leg of a 10-day, five-nation European tour, praised Portugal's progress towards democracy and said his talks with President Eanes further strengthened the friendly relations between the two countries.

He also conferred with Prime Minister Mario Soares and said the subjects covered in the two meetings included a U.S.-sponsored international loan to help the Portuguese economy, and the modernisation of Portugal's armed forces to meet their NATO commitment.

Mr. Mondale told reporters yesterday that Portugal's economic problems, which include a 25-30 per cent inflation rate, would probably be the main subject of today's talks.

Among other topics discussed in general terms was the Belgrade Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which will be a follow-up of the 1975 Helsinki conference, and American use of the Lajes air base in the Azores.

Portugal is seeking increased payment for allowing U.S. planes to land at Lajes, but

Dr. Soares stressed it was only a technical matter and that continued operation of the base was not in question.

Military transport used the base as a stopover while ferrying supplies to Israel during the 1973 Middle East war.

The vice president, who will meet South African Prime Minister John Vorster in Vienna on Thursday, said he asked Dr. Soares to give him an appraisal of the situation in Africa.

Dr. Soares, as Foreign Minister of the first provisional government after the 1974 revolution, began the negotiations which led to independence for Portugal's former African colonies.

Mr. Mondale discussed African affairs here yesterday with American United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, who left Lisbon this morning for the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique to attend a U.N. conference on Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa).

The tour, which he began on Saturday, is Mr. Mondale's second overseas trip since becoming vice president in January. Mr. Mondale leaves here tomorrow for talks with Spanish leaders in Madrid.

## Violence in Azores

PONTA DELGADA, Azores, May 16 (R). — Army and police reinforcements moved into this capital of Sao Miguel Island in the Portuguese azores today after a night of separatist violence in which at least nine people were wounded by gunfire.

A bomb damaged the naval radio station here and another blast wrecked an army vehicle in Angra do Heroismo, on Terceira Island. No one was hurt by the explosions.

Gen. Galvao de Figueiredo, Portugal's Resident Minister in the semi-autonomous archipelago, described the shooting and bombing incidents as the worst so far in the minority separatists' campaign for total independence.

Police and a large group of armed separatists attacked their headquarters here but were repulsed by tear-gas grenades. Police said they fired in the air, not at the attackers.

## Namibia's white population votes today on plan for independence

WINDHOEK, South West Africa (Namibia), May 16 (R). — The white minority of South West Africa (Namibia) votes here tomorrow on tentative plans, already rejected by five major Western powers, for an interim government and independence.

It is believed that the South African government, sponsor of a constitutional conference here which drew up the independence plans, is ready to scrap or to heavily amend the proposals after pressure from the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada.

The Turnhalle Constitutional Conference, named after the round hall where the programme was worked out, envisaged an interim government in which all of South West Africa's 11 ethnic groups would be equally represented, including its 99,000 whites outnumbered 10-to-one by non-whites.

The Western powers, in a series of meetings in Cape Town with South African Prime Minister

John Vorster and Foreign Minister P. W. Botha, stressed that the South West African "Peoples' Organisation" (SWAPO) must be involved in internationally-supervised free elections if an independent Namibia is to be regarded as legitimate by the outside world.

SWAPO, which is fighting a low-key guerrilla war for outright black majority rule, is recognised by the United Nations as the true representative of the territory's peoples. The organisation did not attend the Turnhalle conference and is excluded from the independence plans.

South Africa now rules the territory under a revoked U.N. mandate.

Mr. A. H. du Plessis, leader of the white delegation at the Turnhalle, told reporters last night that South Africa might replace the conference's proposed interim government with "a government in another form," he refused to elaborate.

The whites will be asked to reply "yes" or "no" to the question: "Are you in favour of the establishment of an in-

terim government and independence for the territory of South West Africa in accordance with the principles accepted by the constitutional conference?"

Political commentators here said a turnout of at least 70 per cent is essential if the whites are to register their determination to cooperate with other population groups.

They said a positive vote would also help South African Prime Minister John Vorster when he meets U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale in Vienna on May 19 for talks on South Africa, South West Africa and Rhodesia.

The U.N. conference is Mozambique this week on South West Africa and Rhodesia will also be keenly interested in the result.

## Israel produces new tank

TEL AVIV, May 16 (R). — Israel has produced a revolutionary front-engine tank with armour able to withstand any shell in the Arab arsenal, Israeli newspapers claimed yesterday.

They said the 56-ton "merkava" (Chariot) also had an exceptionally low profile. But the papers did not specify whether the armour could withstand hits from infantry-borne missiles which wreaked havoc in the 1973 Middle East war.

First official confirmation that Israel was producing its own tank was given on Saturday in a radio interview by acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Military correspondents of the Israeli press said the tank was developed by a team under Maj. Gen. Israel Tal, former Commander of the Tank Corps and a leading advocate of armour in modern warfare.

The correspondents said the design was based on lessons of the 1973 war, when some of the biggest tank battles in history were fought.

They said the siting of the engine in the front and such other machinery on the sides as well as a rear hatch for easy escape meant maximum survival prospects for the four-man crew.

The "Merkava" will carry a 105mm Israeli-made cannon with 62 rounds and be powered by a U.S.-produced 900-horsepower engine. One version of the tank will be able to carry 10 infantrymen.

At least one foreign country has already expressed interest in the "Merkava" but sales would be subject to approval from Washington because of U.S. components in the tank, the correspondents said.

The cost of each tank was put at seven million Israeli pounds (about \$700,000 dollars) and production had already begun, they added.

Mr. Peres said in Saturday's radio interview that the United States had agreed to give Israel financial assistance in the tank's production.

## Concorde's foes jam traffic at N.Y. airport

NEW YORK, May 16 (R). — Opponents of the controversial supersonic Concorde airliner yesterday jammed traffic round New York's Kennedy Airport, where a judge has given the go-ahead for the plane to land.

The cars, about 150 of them, drove at a snail's pace around the airport, causing snarl-ups 2 kms. long on some approach roads, police said.

But the turnout by the anti-

Concorde demonstrators yesterday was not as big as expected.

One demonstrator commented: "The people may have got to the point where they are disgusted with the attitudes of public officials and so they feel powerless."

Another car protest at the airport is planned for next Sunday and leaders of the anti-Concorde campaign have threatened to close the airport down

on June 20, the day for the first scheduled Concorde flight here following a federal judge's ruling overturning a temporary ban on the plane.

The court decision was for the Anglo-French airliner to land in New York four times daily for a 16-month trial period.

Lawyers for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Kennedy and nearby airports, are preparing for a further legal battle to stop the plane landing here.

This week British Airways and Air France will be proposing a court order implementing Judge Milton Pollack's decision. Once this order is approved, the port authority said it will ask the judge to stay execution pending a review by an appeals court.

"They (the Ethiopians) are killing their students and teachers and workers. I don't know who will be saved from their socialism in the end," Gen. Siad Barre said.

"It is said that thousands of students have been killed. I don't know whether it is true but why kill students? Students are the best people in a country," he said.

Asked if Soviet arms supplies to Ethiopia would effect Somalia's relations with Moscow, the president said it depended on whether Ethiopia intended to use the arms "to come to the sea," to invade Djibouti.

"I don't see anything which can prejudice our relations with the Soviet Union," he added.

Gen. Siad Barre said he was happy at the way the May 8 independence referendum in Djibouti had been conducted by France.

He had told French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing he disapproved of any French troops being left in the territory after the June 27 independence date, he said.

Asked if he thought Djibouti would form a federation with Somalia after independence, he said: "The people of the area are Somalis by tradition, by language and by birth."

"We tried our best to help them become independent. It now depends on them. If they want to come they are welcome ... if they want to go to Ethiopia, okay we salute them," he added.

He told questioners he saw no change in U.S. policy towards his country though there had been fewer attacks by the American press.

## Somalia will go to war if Ethiopia invades Djibouti

MOGADISHU, May 16 (R). — Somalia will go to war if Ethiopia invades the strategic French Territory of the Afars and Issas (Djibouti) after it becomes independent from France next month, Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre told reporters here.

Speaking to a group of visiting journalists yesterday, the Somali president said in the event of aggression from Ethiopia against Djibouti, which overshadows the vital sea lanes to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, Somalia would not hesitate to go to war "if the people of the area ask us."

See related feature -- p. 2 --

Ethiopia and Somalia have a long standing dispute over rival claims to a huge slice of territory around their eastern borders. Djibouti is sandwiched between the two socialist rivals and is Ethiopia's only access to the sea.

The Somali president said President Fidel Castro had arranged a secret meeting between himself and the Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-mariam in Aden during the Cuban leader's African tour in mid-March. "Unfortunately no agreement was reached," Gen. Siad Barre added.

"President Castro was equipped with all possible good will to find agreement but our Ethiopian friends were rich in a mentality of colonialism and territorial aggrandisement," he said.

Somalia could not believe in Ethiopian socialism "if he who advocates socialism is mad then it is a mad socialism," he said.

"We don't believe in killing and torture."

## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

\* QUEBEC, May 16 (AFP). — The Quebec Province government will hold a referendum on independence sometime between 1978 and 1981, when its mandate runs out, Prime Minister Rene Levesque said here yesterday after a two-day cabinet meeting. He said ministers had decided on an approximate date but did not wish to reveal the time-table yet. Mr. Levesque said the government wanted first to put through legislation defining the procedure for a referendum ... never before held in Quebec Province. A recent public opinion poll showed that one-third of Quebecois were in favour of separating the French-speaking province from the rest of Canada.

\* ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 16 (R). — A Yugoslav flight controller was today sentenced to seven years in prison for criminal negligence leading to the world's worst mid-air collision in which 176 people died last September. The five-man bench of the Zagreb District Court found Mr. Gradimir Tasic, 28, guilty of grave offences against public safety. The court accepted seven other controllers charged with joint responsibility for the crash along with Mr. Tasic. The trial followed the collision on Sept. 10 between a British Airways Trident and a Yugoslav DC-9 charter plane 10,000 metres above the village of Vrbovec, near here. There were no survivors. The trial began on April 11.

\* NEW YORK, May 16 (R). — Newsweek magazine said today the third television interview between former U.S. President Richard Nixon and British interviewer David Frost had produced a "disclosure of Nixon's chilling notion of all-but-absolute presidential power in the name of national interest." Newsweek quoted sources who have seen a preview of the programme, entitled "war at home and abroad," as saying: "Nixon's thinking about the presidency and its power is more like (King) George III (of England) than George Washington." The interview is the third in a series recorded by Mr. Frost, and is due to be televised here next Thursday.

\* JOHANNESBURG, May 16 (R). — Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, has been banished from Soweto black township near Johannesburg to a remote village, a police spokesman said today. Mrs. Mandela, a community leader in the sprawling township, had previously been restricted to the Soweto area under a banning order.

\* AMMAN, May 16 (R). — Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Deputy Premier, will visit Washington on May 24 for two days for talks with President Carter, Riyadh Radio announced on Saturday.

\* NAPLES, May 16 (R). — Mr. Guido de Martino, son of Italy's former socialist leader was freed yesterday after being held blindfolded and chained for 39 days by unknown kidnappers in a small room in southern Italy. The 34-year-old teacher, who grew a long beard during his detention, looked well and happy when he embraced his father, Mr. Francesco de Martino, at their home. He later told reporters that a ransom of just under one billion lire (860,000) had been paid, collected by family friends and party comrades.

## Waldheim addresses Maputo's meet on Rhodesia, Namibia

MAPUTO, Mozambique, May 16 (R). — Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, of the United Nations, told a conference here today that a grave international disaster would occur if efforts to find peaceful solutions to Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa) were not accelerated.

But President Samora Machel of Mozambique said the peoples of Rhodesia and Namibia had no alternative to armed struggle and "we believe it is a mistake to speak of peaceful solutions when there is war."

However, guerrilla wars and international pressure had made the situation "favourable for a negotiated settlement," he said.

The conference, set up by the U.N. General Assembly, is intended to mobilise international support for black majority rule in the two territories.

President Machel reminded the delegates that they were meeting only a few miles from the South African border.

"Welcome to Mozambique the boundary between human rights and fascism," he declared.

The delegates represent nearly 90 United Nations member states and black nationalist movements.

Mr. Machel, whose country is a base for nationalist guerrillas fighting in neighbouring Rhodesia, added: "We are meeting to devise the most effective means to eliminate once and for all colonialism and racism in Zimbabwe and Namibia."

Mr. Andrew Young, chief U.S. delegate to the U.N., was due here tonight, after his talks in Lisbon yesterday with Vice President Walter Mondale.

le, to lead the American delegation.

Minister of State Ted Rowlands heads the British representation.

In his address, Dr. Waldheim said it was regrettable that every attempt to find a solution in Rhodesia over the last two years had been "frustrated by the illegal regime and its refusal to accept reality."

Instead, the government of Mr. Ian Smith "has escalated repressive policies leading to senseless killings and forcing the people of Zimbabwe to intensify the struggle."

He accused Rhodesia of "repeated acts of aggression" against the neighbouring black African states of Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana, and of causing severe loss of life and property.

Dr. Waldheim said the situation in Namibia was "an unparalleled challenge to the authority of the United Nations."

He said the continued presence of South Africa in Namibia, which it rules under a revoked League of Nations mandate, was illegal and he called for free elections under U.N. supervision and control in the territory.

President Machel, speaking of Namibia and Rhodesia, said a colonial war could only end with the military defeat of the colonisers or their acceptance of the rights of the majority to independence.

## Vietnamese vote for 1st time since re-unification

HONG KONG, May 16 (AFP). — Voters in Vietnam turned out in force yesterday to elect local administrative organs for the first time since the re-unification of the country.

The Vietnam News Agency reported that turn-out at many polling stations reached 100 per cent. Almost all Vietnamese leaders, including the elderly President Ton Duc Thang, went to the polls, the agency said.

Many officials of the defeated Saigon regime were also allowed to exercise their franchise, including former South Vietnamese Vice Premier Nguyen Van Hao and ex-Lt. Gen. Le Van Nghien, who cast their ballots at a centre in Ho Chi Minh city (formerly Saigon).

Former army Maj. Vo Duy Thanh, one of 3,000 officers and civil servants of the old regime who were released last month after a spell of re-education, also voted at the same centre, the agency said.

The authorities have sent mobile ballot boxes to hospitals and homes of invalids and the elderly to help people cast their ballots. More than 500

women patients voted at a mother and child institute.

Many foreign newsmen and visitors, including members of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) who happened to be in Ho Chi Minh city, witnessed the election at polling stations of various constituencies, the news agency said.

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